



# HARTI

## FOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 17

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No.01

### Highlights

#### Paddy/Rice

- Improved market supply of short and long grain paddy varieties due to ongoing harvesting.
- Increased demand for samba and keeri samba rice during the festive season. As a result wholesale and retail prices for samba increased.
- Keeri samba rice remains scarce at retail outlets.

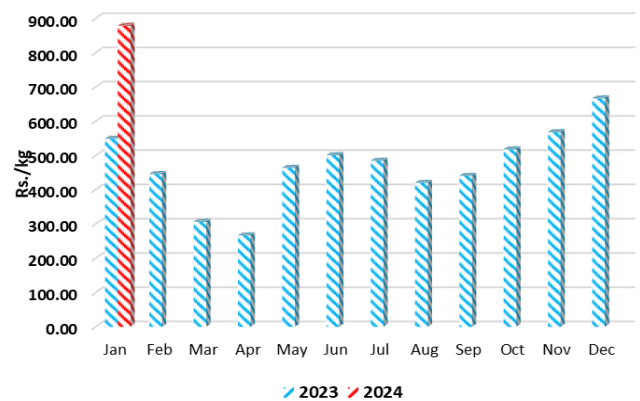
#### Vegetables

- Vegetable prices surged by 5% to 143% due to decreased supply.
- Supply issues caused by unfavorable weather conditions, including floods, pests, and diseases.
- Carrots saw the highest price hike, averaging Rs. 1,229.00/kg.

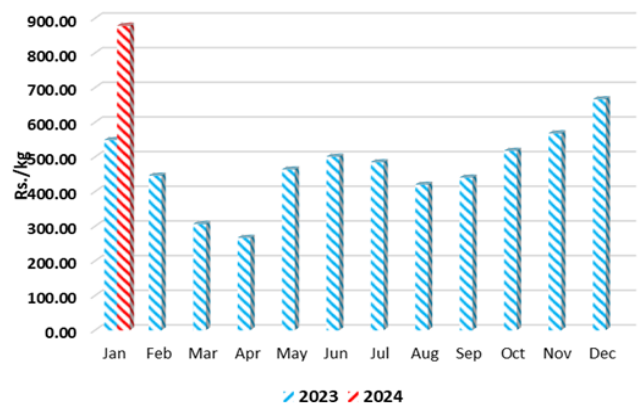
#### Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs, and Meat

- Decline in wholesale prices of most fish varieties due to high supply during peak season.
- Egg prices dropped further due to the availability of imported eggs.
- Lifting of the maximum retail price on eggs led to a 2% decrease in wholesale prices for both brown and white eggs.

Average Retail Prices of Beans (Green)



Average Retail Prices of Beans (Green)



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### **EXPLANTATORY NOTE**

The Food Information Bulletin is a monthly publication containing information relating to producer, wholesale and retail prices of selected food commodities in selected markets in and around Colombo and main markets in the major producing areas. Data on extent, production and imports are also available in the bulletin.

The information is analyzed and presented as, prevailing prices, price ranges, averages and comparison of monthly prices. The changes in prices reported are always in relation to price, which prevailed during the previous month unless otherwise stated.

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##### **Colombo and suburb markets**

- |                |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pettah      | 4. Thotalanga | 7. Kiribathgoda |
| 2. Narahenpita | 5. Peliyagoda | 8. Maharagama   |
| 3. Dematagoda  | 6. Kadawatha  | 9. Nugegoda     |

##### **Outstation Markets**

- |                     |                     |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nuwara Eliya     | 16. Keppetipola     | 31. Rathnapura       |
| 2. Dambulla         | 17. Thambuththegama | 32. Embilipitiya     |
| 3. Matara           | 18. Anuradhapura    | 33. Maradagahamula   |
| 4. Kurunegala       | 19. Badulla         | 34. Galenbindunuwewa |
| 5. Bandarawela      | 20. Galle           | 35. Rilkillagaskada  |
| 6. Kandy            | 21. Mannar          | 36. Matale           |
| 7. Meegoda          | 22. Trincomalee     |                      |
| 8. Kalutara         | 23. Batticaloa      |                      |
| 9. Weeravila        | 24. Jaffna          |                      |
| 10. Nikaweratiya    | 25. Mullativu       |                      |
| 11. Polonnaruwa     | 26. Kilinochchi     |                      |
| 12. Puttalam        | 27. Vavuniya        |                      |
| 13. Hambanthota     | 28. Kegalle         |                      |
| 14. Veyangoda       | 29. Ampara          |                      |
| 15. Dehiattakandiya | 30. Monaragala      |                      |

## 1. Paddy/Rice

### Crop Situation

According to the Crop Forecast (Volume 2, Maha 2023/24) of the Department of Agriculture, paddy area target for the Maha 2023/24 season is 869,990 ha. Cultivation target has almost been realized at major producing areas. Sown extent reported as at the end January 2024 is 805,347 ha, 93% achievement from the target. Paddy production forecast based on the reported sown extent as at the end January 2024 is 2.64 million metric tons, accounting for crop losses. Maha 2023/24 production would be sufficient to feed the national rice requirement up to 8 months (August 2024). Over 75% of paddy harvesting has been completed in Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts. Harvesting of paddy has been in progress in all the major producing areas.

**Table 1.1 Target and Sown Extent as at End January 2024 and production forecast of Maha**

District/Area	Area target for the season (ha)	Sown area as at end January 2024(ha)	Cultivation Progress as a % from target	**Production forecast based on progress (Mt)	Total affected extent (ha)	Revised production forecast (Mt)
<b>Provincial Areas</b>						
Colombo	4214	3646	87	10433	88	10271
Gampaha	13129	9862	75	20095	1448	17698
Kalutara	14638	11315	77	33869	37	33808
Galle	13403	6705	50	17343	217	16921
Matara	15346	9247	60	18529	1230	16519
Ratnapura	12225	10209	84	38539	562	37691
Kegalle	8444	7227	86	27763	150	27604
Kurunagala	83449	81685	98	231986	3504	229212
Puttalam	22825	19193	84	65081	1314	62003
Kandy	9835	7693	78	25592	125	25462
Matale	17812	14443	81	65824	20	65733
N eliya	5366	1430	27	3366	-	3366
Badulla	17091	11720	69	42924	116	42800
Monaragala	30292	27562	91	114600	148	114250
Jaffna	13086	12580	96	26989	2541	22884
Kilinochchi	28779	28424	99	57990	7859	51627
Vavuniya	24826	22239	90	77634	1054	76634
Mullativu	24362	22879	94	60753	5360	52585
Mannar	24671	24667	100	95753	2512	84917
Anuradhapura	83484	74212	89	288842	2520	283950
Trincomalee	49387	43882	89	130451	2178	126293
Batticaloa	75191	74184	99	214443	1635	209306
Ampara	1313	7334	100	29616	1100	27095
Hambantota	13077	12328	94	60847	550	58684
<b>Inter Province Areas</b>						
Polonnaruwa IP	30600	29725	97	131826	8518	121278
Ampara IP	67397	66870	99	262885	28096	164532
Monaragala IP	6312	6432	102	26742	210	26520
Hambantota IP	15668	15617	100	76753	641	73827
Hasalaka IP	14495	13783	95	52655	153	52353
Anuradhapura IP	29071	31928	110	119757	1057	118219
<b>Mahaweli Systems</b>						
Udawalawa	11810	11783	100	58935	-	58935
System H	21755	21442	99	83029	-	83029
System H1	8195	8583	105	33236	13	33210
System B	20006	20010	100	80253	1511	75854
System C	22180	22597	102	90629	328	89891
System G	5800	6128	106	24844	668	23810
4976System D	1326	1246	94	4997	21	4975
Rambakanoya	1050	1524	145	5574	-	5574
System L	2080	3011	145	9685	-	9685
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>869990</b>	<b>805347</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2821062</b>	<b>77489</b>	<b>2639015</b>

Source: Crop forecast, Maha 2023/24, Volume 02, Department of Agriculture

### Producer Prices

Market supply of short grain and long grain paddy varieties improved due to ongoing harvesting in major producing areas. Hence, producer prices above paddy varieties have decreased across most

of the major producing areas compared to the previous month. As a result, producer prices of short grain paddy have decreased by 6% and 5% in Dehiattakandiya and Polonnaruwa. However, producer price of short grain paddy has increased by 3% in Anuradhapura and Kalawewa.

Producer prices for long grain white paddy ranged between Rs.78.00 -131.00/kg in the major producing areas and the price has dropped by 3-7% in most of the producing areas compared to the previous month. The largest price drop for long grain white was recorded in Polpnnarura followed by Ampara due to ongoing harvesting. Producer prices for long grain red ranged from Rs.90.00-105.00/kg in Hambantota, Matara, and Embilipitiya. Furthermore, producer price of keerisamba ranged between Rs.121.00-165.00/kg and price has dropped by 5% and 4% respectively in Polonnaruwa and Dehiattakandiya due to ongoing harvesting.

Compared to the same period last year, producer prices for short grain, long grain white, and keeri samba have increased across all price collection areas, with keeri samba recording the highest price increase of 34%. However, producer prices for long grain red have decreased in all producing areas, with a 2-6% decline.

**Table1.2: Producer prices of Paddy –January 2024**

	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	January 2024	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	December 2023		January 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Short Grain</b>								
Anuradhapura	120.00-130.00	126.16	122.15	94.72	4.01	3.28	31.44	33.19
Polonnaruwa	101.00-131.00	122.42	129.11	102.82	-6.69	-5.19	19.60	19.06
Kalawewa	120.00-130.00	127.01	123.35	95.28	3.66	2.97	31.73	33.31
Kurunegala	108.00-130.00	124.28	126.36	97.72	-2.09	-1.65	26.56	27.18
Dehiattakandiya	93.00-129.00	119.45	127.13	98.70	-7.68	-6.04	20.75	21.02
Nikaweratiya	106.00-131.00	123.73	122.91	96.25	0.82	0.67	27.48	28.56
Ampara	118.00-130.00	124.42	121.42	100.00	3.00	2.47	24.42	24.42
<b>Long Grain White</b>								
Anuradhapura	105.00-120.00	113.92	112.55	94.08	1.37	1.22	19.84	21.09
Polonnaruwa	85.00-131.00	106.88	115.17	102.44	-8.28	-7.19	4.44	4.34
Kalawewa	110.00-120.00	114.99	112.30	93.60	2.69	2.40	21.39	22.86
Kurunegala	85.00-120.00	111.61	115.50	96.37	-3.89	-3.37	15.24	15.81
Dehiattakandiya	85.00-109.00	102.97	107.33	96.87	-4.37	-4.07	6.10	6.30
Embilipitiya								
Nikaweratiya	85.00-120.00	111.05	114.16	96.25	-3.11	-2.73	14.80	15.38
Ampara								
<b>Long Grain Red</b>								
A' pura	78.00-120.00	103.69	110.94		-7.25	-6.54		
Matara								
Hambantota								
Embilipitiya	90.00-105.00	100.75	96.44	102.33	4.31	4.47	-1.58	-1.55
<b>Keeri Samba</b>								
A'pura	95.00-100.00	98.66	100.41	104.92	-1.75	-1.75	-6.26	-5.97
Polonnaruwa								
Kalawewa	140.00-155.00	150.70	148.63	112.76	2.07	1.40	37.94	33.65
Kurunegala	121.00-164.00	150.20	158.28	111.48	-8.08	-5.11	38.72	34.73
Dehiattakandiya	140.00-155.00	150.11	144.23	112.20	5.88	4.08	37.91	33.78

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## Rice Prices Demand/Supply Situation

### Wholesale Prices

Demand for samba and keerisamba rice varieties had increased especially at the begging of the month due to festive season. Hence, the wholesale prices for above varieties have increased by 3-7% compared to the previous month. The highest increase of 7% was recorded for Keeri Samba, due to a continued decline in supply as well as increased demand. The price for Keeri Samba ranged between Rs. 315.00-350.00/kg, marking an all-time high. Wholesale prices for Samba Grade I and II ranged between Rs. 235.00-245.00 and Rs. 227.00-238.00/kg, respectively, with average prices rising by 3%. Supply of the other rice varieties improved slightly due to ongoing harvesting especially in north and east provinces and prices have reduced by less than 2% compared to the previous month.

Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices for all rice varieties, except raw red, increased by 06-52%, with Keeri Samba showing the highest rise of Rs.116.00/kg. In contrast, the wholesale price of raw red decreased by 7% compared to the same period last year.

**Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail prices of Rice – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Samba 1	235.00-245.00	240.12	232.30	213.09	7.82	3.37	27.03	12.68
Samba 2	227.00-238.00	233.24	225.96	205.76	7.28	3.22	27.48	13.35
Keeri Samba	315.00-350.00	337.70	314.93	221.86	22.77	7.23	115.84	52.21
Nadu 1	205.00-215.00	210.66	212.12	199.20	-1.45	-0.69	11.47	5.76
Nadu 2	200.00-208.00	204.61	205.68	192.46	-1.08	-0.52	12.15	6.31
Raw red	170.00-185.00	179.67	183.03	192.38	-3.36	-1.84	-12.71	-6.61
Raw white	190.00-210.00	202.74	202.79	188.30	-0.06	-0.03	14.44	7.67
Imported Samba	275.00-280.00	276.46		204.44			72.02	35.23
Imported Raw White				166.46				
Imported Nadu				174.00				
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Samba 1	230.00-260.00	253.23	247.58	230.11	5.66	2.28	23.12	10.05
Samba 2			239.69	219.81				
Keeri Samba	360.00-380.00	368.99		255.73			113.26	44.29
Nadu 1	220.00-230.00	224.25	225.59	220.92	-1.34	-0.59	3.33	1.51
Nadu 2	220.00-220.00	220.00	220.00	212.20	0.00	0.00	7.80	3.68
Raw red	190.00-220.00	205.60	205.36	213.83	0.24	0.12	-8.23	-3.85
Raw white	210.00-220.00	216.55	215.19	210.47	1.36	0.63	6.08	2.89
Imported Ponne Samba	280.00-330.00	311.18		219.77			91.40	41.59
Imported Raw White				187.42				
Imported Nadu				197.21				

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

### Retail Prices

In line with wholesale prices, retail prices for samba varieties increased by 2% compared to the previous month. Keeri Samba was hardly available at retail level. Furthermore, the average retail prices of Samba Grade 1, nadu grade 1, and Keeri Samba exceeded the government-regulated maximum retail price (MRP). Compared to the same month last year, retail prices for most rice

varieties increased by 2-44%, with keeri samba showing the highest rise. In contrast, the retail price of raw red rice decreased by Rs. 8.00/kg compared to the same period last year.

## 2. Other Field Crops

### 2.1 Chilli

#### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of land for green chilli cultivation in maha 2023 /24 was 10,007 ha. The extent of lands cultivated with green chilli was 5,522 ha by the end of January and it was 55% of the target. The highest cultivated extent (574ha) was recorded from the Anuradhapura district at the end of this month. The total estimated production of green chilli during this Maha season is 27,426 mt and out of that around 34% of the production will be supplied from Anuradhapura (10%), Puttalam (8%), Monaragala (8%), and Badulla districts (8%).

**Table 2.1.1: Target and Cultivation progress of green Chilli for Maha 2023/24**

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress by the end of January 2024		Expected Production (Mt)
		Cultivated extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	1,283	574	45	2,784
Puttalam	1,303	297	23	2,226
Monaragala	629	488	78	2,134
Batticaloa	590	297	50	1,371
Jaffna	588	358	61	1,935
Kurunegala	451	284	63	1,718
Badulla	401	344	86	2,222
Kilinochchi	485	206	42	326
Interprovincial DDA areas	765	445	58	2,098
Mahaweli areas	515	392	76	1,790
Other areas	2,997	1,837	61	8,822
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,007</b>	<b>5,522</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>27,426</b>

*Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2023/24, Volume 02, Department of Agriculture*

#### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supply of green chilli from main producing areas increased during this month. Hence, wholesale prices of green chilli have decreased by about Rs.55.00/kg while the retail price has increased by about Rs.108.00/kg due to availability of good quality stocks in most of the retail markets. The average wholesale and retail prices of green chilli were Rs. 922.60/kg and Rs. 1475.86/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, both the wholesale and retail prices of green chilli have increased by about 209% and 176% respectively.

A quantity of 3,747 mt of dried chillie was imported in January 2024 and this quantity was higher than 302mt compared to the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs. 728.57/kg and it has decreased by Rs.45.06/kg compared to the previous month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have decreased by about Rs.45.00/kg and Rs.20.00/kg respectively. Prices ranged between Rs.880.00-1050.00/kg at the wholesale level and Rs.1100.00 – Rs. 1500.00/kg at the retail level. Compared to the same period last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chilli have decreased by about 26% and 27% respectively.

**Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies – January, 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Green chillies	700.00-1700.00	922.60	977.50	298.60	-54.90	-5.62	624.00	208.98
Dried chillies	880.00-1050.00	987.53	1032.96	1331.90	-45.43	-4.40	-344.37	-25.86
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Green chillies	800.00-2400.00	1475.86	1368.20	535.06	107.66	7.87	940.80	175.83
Dried chillies	1100.00-1500.00	1278.28	1298.39	1752.35	-20.11	-1.55	-474.07	-27.05

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

**Table 2.1.3: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – January, 2024**

Location	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	5th Week
Dambulla	880.00	880.00	762.00	722.00	900.00
Embilipitiya	952.00	844.00	944.00	944.00	980.00
Puttalam	890.00	750.00	750.00	641.67	825.00
A'Pura	1190.00	940.00	920.00	870.00	1170.00

Source: Data Management Division /HARTI

**Table 2.1.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies (August,2023 – January, 2024)**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs/mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Jan-2024	3747.22	2730.12	728.57	1278.28	549.71
Dec-2023	3445.19	2665.32	773.63	1298.39	524.75
Nov-2023	3321.30	2572.92	774.67	1327.24	552.57
Oct-2023	4651.15	3640.91	782.80	1331.20	548.40
Sept-2023	2347.54	1748.34	744.75	1319.49	574.74
Aug-2023	3057.48	2379.93	778.40	1295.06	516.66

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division /HARTI

## 2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of land for red onion for maha 2023/24 season was 3083ha, of which 1,258ha has been cultivated by the end of January 2024. It represented 41% of the targeted extent of red onion in Sri Lanka. The targeted extent of land cultivation with red onion was about, 1920 ha in Jaffna and 1044ha of the target (54%) was grown at the end of January 2024. The cultivation progress of red onion in Puttalam district was 26% of the targeted extent at the end of January 2024. The total estimated production of red onion during this maha season is 15,105 mt and out of that around 94% of the production will be supplied from Jaffna (83%), and Puttalam (11%).

**Table 2.2.1: Cultivation progress of Red Onion for Maha 2023/24**

Area	Targeted Extent (Ha)	Cultivation progress by the end of January 2023		Expected Production (Mt)
		Cultivated extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Jaffna	1920	1,044	54	12,538
Puttalam	455	118	26	1,650
Trincomalee	307	5	2	41
Other area	401	91	23	876
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15,105</b>

Source: Crop Forecast, maha 2023/24, Volume 02, Department of Agriculture

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The market supply of big onion consisted of only imported and big onions during this month too. A quantity of 20,911mt of big onion was imported in January 2024 and this quantity was higher than the 4,954 mt compared to the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.192.19/kg and it has increased by Rs.10.70/kg compared to the previous month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onions have increased by about Rs.16.00/kg and Rs.60.00/kg respectively. The average wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion were Rs. 356.39/kg and Rs.481.26/kg respectively and both prices have increased by about 145% and 155% respectively when compared to the same period of last year.

Supply of local red onion has decreased significantly from the main producing areas during this month. Hence, local red onion stocks were not reported in most of the markets. A quantity of 5796 mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was an increase of 3,947 mt compared to that of last month. The average CIF price was Rs.231.05/kg and it has decreased by Rs.22.27/kg compared to the previous month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.104.00/kg and Rs.87.00/kg respectively. compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about 37% and 29% respectively.

#### 2.2.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg) January,2024

Crop	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
Wholesale Price	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Red Onion (Sinnan)								
Red Onion (Vedalan)								
Red Onion (Imported)	230.00-460.00	309.18	413.62	489.40	-104.44	-25.25	-180.22	-36.82
Big Onion (imported)	250.00-450.00	356.39	339.96	145.40	16.44	4.84	210.99	145.11
Big Onion (Local)								
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Red Onion (Sinnan)								
Red Onion (Vedalan)								
Red Onion (Imported)	380.00-600.00	495.78	582.53	696.10	-86.74	-14.89	-200.32	-28.78
Big Onion (imported)	400.00-600.00	481.26	421.39	188.50	59.87	14.21	292.77	155.32
Big Onion (Local)								

Source: Source: Data Management Division /HARTI



### 2.2.3: Monthly Average CIF Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Imported Big Onions

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Jan,2024	192.19	356.39	481.26	164.20	124.87
	Dec,2023	181.49	339.96	421.39	158.47	81.44
	Jan,2023	84.21	145.40	188.50	61.19	43.10
Red onion	Jan,2024	231.05	309.18	495.78	78.13	186.61
	Dec,2023	253.32	413.62	582.53	160.30	168.91
	Jan,2023	156.20	489.40	696.10	333.20	206.70

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

### 2.2.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Big Onions and Red Onions

Crop	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Million)		CIF Price (Rs/Kg)	
	Jan,2024	Dec,2023	Jan,2024	Dec,2023	Jan,2024	Dec,2023
Red Onion	5796.36	1848.71	1339.24	468.32	231.05	253.32
Big Onion	20910.77	15956.33	4018.85	2895.88	192.19	181.49

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

### 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Prices, Wholesale Prices, Retail Prices of Imported Big onions (January 2024– August,2023)

Month	Quantity Imported (Mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/Kg)	Retail Price (Rs/Kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/Kg)
Jan-24	20,910.77	192.19	356.39	481.26	289.07
Dec-23	15,956.33	181.49	339.96	421.39	239.91
Nov-23	18,603.76	135.69	201.47	298.16	162.46
Oct-23	20,520.86	104.85	190.61	259.39	154.53
Sep-23	21,310.34	88.92	135.98	222.62	133.70
Aug-23	26,951.49	75.91	145.00	183.45	107.53

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

## 2.3 Potato

### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *maha* season was 2, 923 ha and about 1, 025 ha have been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 35% of the target. The cultivated progress is slightly higher for the potato when compared with the total cultivated extent as at Maha 22/23 season. According to the cultivated extent up to end of this month, the expected production of potato is 15,484 mt for the *maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent was 1,361 ha and about 288 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of this month (21 % progress). Compared to the same period of last maha season, the cultivated extent is nearly same at this maha season in the district. The targeted extent for this maha season was 1, 461 ha in the Badulla district and 736 ha have been cultivated by the end of January achieving 50% of the targeted extent.

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 16,245 mt of potato had been imported in January which was 3,155mt lower than that was imported during the previous month. Compared to the quantity imported in January, 2023 (17,961 15,834 mt), the imports were slightly lower during this month. Average CIF price was Rs. 72 /kg in January (Table 2.31).

**Table 2.3.1: Quantity, value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes –Aug-Jan 2024**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Jan-2024	16,245	1,173.16	72.22	196.64	124.43
Dec-2023	19,400	1,445.47	74.51	226.75	152.24
Nov-2023	9,269	678.05	73.15	224.32	151.17
Oct-2023	8,280	513.21	61.98	222.31	160.33
Sept-2023	9,903	692.93	69.97	212.75	142.78
Aug-2023	15,890	1,196.68	75.31	222.73	147.42

Source: Department of Customs; Data Management Division/HARTI

With regard to local potato, the Walimada potato stocks were not available in the Colombo wholesale and retail market due to the end of the harvesting period. Stocks of Nuwara Eliya potato was available in the wholesale and retail markets and the price ranged between Rs. 280.00-380.00/kg and Rs. 360.00-460.00/kg. Wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have decreased by 20% and 30% respectively due to ample stocks available in the market. During the month of January, the wholesale price of imported potato ranged between Rs. 120.00-230.00 /kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato does not change significantly (Table 2.3.2).

**Table: 2.3.2: Producer, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Potato – May 2023**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Producer Prices (PP)</b>								
Welimada	235.00-270.00	258.40	270.50	255.80	-12.10	-4.47	2.60	1.02
Nuwara Eliya	280.00-310.00	295.00	287.75	272.00	7.25	2.52	23.00	8.46
Imported – CIF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wholesale Prices (WP)</b>								
Welimada			320.00	-			-	-
Nuwara Eliya	280.00-380.00	328.50	332.03	366.00	-3.53	-1.06	-37.50	-10.25
Imported	120.00-230.00	173.58	193.54	124.06	-19.96	-10.31	49.52	39.92
<b>Retail Prices (RP)</b>								
Welimada	-	-			-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	360.00-460.00	414.09	407.86	443.97	6.23	1.53	-29.88	-6.73
Imported	180.00-240.00	196.64	226.75	181.78	-30.11	-13.28	14.86	8.17
<b>Gross Margin (RP-PP)</b>								
Welimada		-258.40	-270.50	255.80	12.10	-4.47	-2.60	1.02
Nuwara Eliya		119.09	120.11	171.97	-1.02	-0.85	-52.88	-30.75
Imported (RP-CIF)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Gross Margin (RP -WP)</b>								
Welimada								
Nuwara Eliya		85.59	75.83	77.97	9.76	12.87	7.62	9.78
Imported		23.06	33.21	57.72	-10.15	-30.56	-34.66	-60.05

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## **2.4 Green gram and Cowpea**

### **Crop Situation and Progress**

Green gram cultivation has been achieved around 47% of its targeted extent in Maha 2023/2024 season. Monthly cultivated extent all OFC's including green gram and cowpea reported a lower area in January than the three year average of monthly cultivated extent.

Kurunegala recorded the highest cultivation extend of green gram as 712 ha which is followed by Moneragala(560 ha). Considering the crop damages, the expected production from the island-wide green gram cultivation is 5,067 mt.

The cultivation of cowpea achieves 4,459 ha of the targeted cultivation extent. The expected production is around 4,544mt. Monaragala and Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Vauvniya district are the major producing districts for cowpea in 2023/24 Maha season.

### **Prices and Supply/ Demand Situation**

The wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs. 950.00/kg to 1150.00 /kg with an average of Rs. 997.33 /kg in January 2024. The prices have increased by 17% compared to the previous month. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has decreased by 19%.

In the meantime, the retail price of green gram ranged between Rs. 1000.00/kg and 1400.00/kg with an average of Rs. 1183.62 /kg. Compared to the previous month, the retail price has changed with the price increase of Rs. 43.00/kg. Further, compared to the same period of last year, the retail price has been decreased by 12% (Table 2.4.1).

Average wholesale prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs. 1,096.67/kg and Rs. 972.33 /kg, respectively in January 2023. The wholesale price of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs. 1200.00/kg and 1400.00 /kg.

Compared to the previous month, the wholesale price of red cowpea has reduced by Rs. 105/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of white cowpea and red cowpea has significantly increased by 11% and 21% respectively.

Average retail prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs. 1244.89 /kg and Rs. 1242.34 /kg respectively. The retail prices of both white and red cowpeas ranged between Rs. 1,200/kg and Rs.1,400/kg. Compared to the previous month, white cowpea and red cowpea prices had not changed significantly. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of white cowpea and red cowpea have decreased by 11% and 12% respectively (Table 2.4.1).

**Table 2.4.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea – Jan 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Green gram	950.00-1150.00	997.33	849.06	1231.36	148.27	17.46	-234.03	-19.01
Cowpea (White)	1000.00-1150.00	1096.67	1036.77	1225.68	59.90	5.78	-129.02	-10.53
Cowpea (Red)	850.00-1200.00	972.33	1076.96	1233.13	-104.63	-9.72	-260.79	-21.15
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Green gram	1000.00-1400.00	1183.62	1139.77	1343.50	43.85	3.85	-159.88	-11.90
Cowpea (White)	1200.00-1400.00	1244.89	1220.53	1404.31	24.36	2.00	-159.42	-11.35
Cowpea (Red)	1200.00-1400.00	1242.34	1226.30	1412.52	16.04	1.31	-170.18	-12.05

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## 2.5 Red dhal

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale price of red dhal ranged between Rs. 290.00/Kg and Rs.300.00 /kg with an average of Rs. 295.47/kg, and the retail price ranged between Rs. 310.00 and Rs. 360.00 /kg with an average of Rs. 339.30/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices have decreased by 16% while retail price has also decreased by 11%.

**Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and retail prices of Red Dhal (small) –Jan 2024**

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2023	May 2023	April 2023	May 2022	April 2023		May 2022	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Price</b>	290.00-300.00	295.47	299.04	353.36	-3.58	-1.20	-57.89	-16.38
<b>Retail Price</b>	310.00-360.00	339.30	339.87	381.35	-0.57	-0.17	-42.05	-11.03

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## 3. Vegetables

### Crop Situation

The cultivation progress of up-country and low-country vegetables is recorded at 59% (10,872 ha) and 66% (18,403 ha), respectively. Okra, brinjal, long bean, ash plantain, kekiri, and winged bean reported above 70% progress from the respective targets. The cultivated area of all vegetables was lower than the average cultivation extent of the past three *Maha* seasons. 145 hectares of up-country vegetables and 91 hectares of low-country vegetables have been impacted and damaged by floods, pests, and diseases. (*Crop Forecast, Vol. 02, Maha 2023/2024, Socio Economics & Planning Center/Department of Agriculture*).

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Prices of many types of vegetables have increased because of the reduced supply caused by unfavourable weather conditions. The wholesale prices of up-country vegetables have increased by 11%-193%. The highest price increase was reported for carrots at Rs.652.00/kg and the price ranged

from Rs.450.00-Rs.2000.00/kg. Leeks and cabbage prices also increased by 50% and 43%, respectively. With regard to the low-country vegetables, the wholesale prices have increased by 5%–78%, except for cucumber and bitter gourd. The highest price of Rs.698.00/kg was recorded for capsicum, while the lowest price of Rs.79.00/kg was for cucumber. The price of cucumber and bitter gourd decreased by 32% and 8%, respectively, due to high supply from the producing areas. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices of most of the vegetable varieties have increased by 1%–563%, with the highest price increase reported for cabbage. However, green chili and lime prices decreased by 6% and 59%, respectively.

**Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Beans (green)	350.00-900.00	579.60	476.64	443.00	102.96	21.60	136.60	30.84
Carrot	450.00-2000.00	988.97	337.50	158.00	651.47	193.03	830.97	525.93
Leeks	150.00-450.00	344.60	230.25	224.58	114.35	49.66	120.02	53.44
Beetroot	380.00-750.00	509.06	390.45	318.02	118.61	30.38	191.05	60.07
Knolkhol	200.00-400.00	283.20	256.00	227.80	27.20	10.63	55.40	24.32
Radish	80.00-200.00	134.80	172.00	72.40	-37.20	-21.63	62.40	86.19
Cabbage	350.00-650.00	482.40	336.33	72.80	146.07	43.43	409.60	562.64
Tomato	300.00-650.00	484.20	494.75	156.20	-10.55	-2.13	328.00	209.99
Ladies Fingers	120.00-400.00	273.60	153.59	173.40	120.01	78.14	100.20	57.79
Brinjal	300.00-650.00	486.40	407.50	239.60	78.90	19.36	246.80	103.01
Capsicum	550.00-1000.00	698.00	480.25	689.40	217.75	45.34	8.60	1.25
Pumpkin	80.00-240.00	142.60	135.25	119.40	7.35	5.43	23.20	19.43
Cucumber	40.00-120.00	79.00	116.75	102.80	-37.75	-32.33	-23.80	-23.15
Bitter Gourd	280.00-450.00	374.20	408.50	287.20	-34.30	-8.40	87.00	30.29
Snake Gourd	180.00-400.00	273.80	195.50	194.20	78.30	40.05	79.60	40.99
Drumstick								
Luffa	250.00-400.00	333.00	288.75	230.20	44.25	15.32	102.80	44.66
Long Beans	100.00-400.00	233.00	206.00	205.80	27.00	13.11	27.20	13.22
Ash Plantain	200.00-350.00	276.80	263.25	219.40	13.55	5.15	57.40	26.16
Green Chillies	700.00-1700.00	922.60	977.50	298.60	-54.90	-5.62	624.00	208.98
Lime	150.00-400.00	215.00	528.75	99.00	-313.75	-59.34	116.00	117.17

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

In line with increase wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetable varieties have also increased. Retail prices of vegetables had increased by 5%-143%. Highest price increase was reported for carrots as Rs.723.00/kg and the highest average price of Rs.1229.00.00/kg was reported for carrots while the lowest price of Rs.219.00/kg was observed for cucumber. In addition, price of lime has decreased by 52%.

**Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables - January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Beans (green)	460.00-2000.00	878.60	666.65	549.17	211.95	31.79	329.43	59.99
Carrot	600.00-2500.00	1229.05	506.31	302.64	722.75	142.75	926.42	306.11
Leeks	300.00-800.00	574.31	383.44	384.59	190.86	49.78	189.72	49.33
Beetroot	550.00-1300.00	868.54	608.63	465.61	259.91	42.70	402.93	86.54
Knolkhol	350.00-800.00	580.89	441.61	377.50	139.29	31.54	203.39	53.88
Radish	160.00-560.00	310.77	346.93	193.54	-36.16	-10.42	117.24	60.58
Cabbage	500.00-1200.00	733.01	508.80	197.77	224.21	44.07	535.24	270.64
Tomato	400.00-1200.00	711.34	672.02	252.87	39.32	5.85	458.47	181.31
Ladies Fingers	250.00-720.00	458.44	349.77	281.33	108.67	31.07	177.10	62.95
Brinjal	400.00-1100.00	710.57	581.27	391.40	129.30	22.24	319.17	81.54
Capsicum	650.00-1600.00	1012.30	797.31	917.44	214.98	26.96	94.86	10.34
Pumpkin	150.00-400.00	276.80	248.74	226.13	28.06	11.28	50.67	22.41
Cucumber	100.00-340.00	218.90	250.56	202.63	-31.66	-12.64	16.27	8.03
Bitter Gourd	350.00-900.00	621.92	634.28	456.04	-12.36	-1.95	165.88	36.37
Snake Gourd	250.00-760.00	466.47	404.55	369.10	61.92	15.31	97.37	26.38
Drumstick								
Luffa	300.00-800.00	544.72	495.27	404.03	49.46	9.99	140.69	34.82
Long Beans	240.00-720.00	442.36	415.43	355.54	26.93	6.48	86.82	24.42
Ash Plantain	320.00-600.00	424.25	395.88	317.77	28.36	7.16	106.47	33.51
Green Chillies	800.00-2400.00	1475.86	1368.20	535.06	107.66	7.87	940.80	175.83
Lime	240.00-1000.00	513.43	1078.62	277.27	-565.20	-52.40	236.15	85.17

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

#### 4. Fruits

##### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In January, the wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased. Considering the prices of banana varieties, the prices of *ambul* (22%), *ambun* (15%) and *anamalu* (11%) have increased while the prices of *kolikuttu* (9%) and *seeni* (1%) have decreased. During the month, the wholesale prices ranged between Rs.250.00-400.00/kg (*kolikuttu*), Rs.100.00-200.00/kg (*ambul*), Rs.100.00-160.00/kg (*seeni*), Rs.30.00-40.00/fruit (*ambun*) and Rs.25.00-34.00/fruit (*anamalu*).

Prices of all the sizes of pineapple have increased by 27%-34% due to decreased supply from Gampaha district. Monthly average wholesale prices were Rs.648.00/fruit (large), Rs.498.00/fruit (medium) and Rs.391.00/fruit (small) sizes of fruits respectively.

Considering the mango varieties, the prices have increased by 212% for *vilad* and 126% for *Karthakolomban* mango due to end of harvesting period. Considering the other types of fruit varieties, the price of passion fruit has increased significantly by 189% due to low stock position. Further, the prices of wood apple and papaw have increased by 43% and 42% respectively. In addition, the prices of slime apple and orange have decreased by 49% and 37%.

Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale prices of all the fruit varieties have increased with the highest price increase of 171% reported for orange (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – January, 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan-24	Jan-24	Dec-23	Jan-23	Dec-23		Jan-23	
					Rs	%	Rs	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	100.00-200.00	150.38	123.29	188.93	27.10	21.98	-38.54	-20.40
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	250.00-400.00	317.50	347.92	362.64	-30.42	-8.74	-45.14	-12.45
Seeni (Rs/kg)	100.00-160.00	127.00	127.69	128.36	-0.69	-0.54	-1.36	-1.06
Anamalu (Fruit)	25.00-34.00	29.53	26.51	20.02	3.03	11.42	9.51	47.49
Ambun (Fruit)	30.00-40.00	36.23	31.41	24.87	4.82	15.36	11.37	45.71
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large (Fruit)	460.00-780.00	647.75	484.35	466.11	163.40	33.74	181.64	38.97
Medium (Fruit)	360.00-600.00	497.75	392.85	393.91	104.90	26.70	103.84	26.36
Small (Fruit)	260.00-480.00	391.25	301.49	320.43	89.76	29.77	70.82	22.10
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti (Fruit)			24.00	18.99				
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	45.00-240.00	92.45	33.52	102.89	58.92	175.76	-10.44	-10.15
Vilad (Fruit)	65.00-100.00	80.12	25.77	61.92	54.35	210.93	18.19	29.38
Kohu (Fruit)								
Papaw (Rs/kg)	80.00-240.00	153.67	108.09	178.30	45.57	42.16	-24.63	-13.82
Passion Fruit (Fruit)	60.00-130.00	102.37	35.42	46.83	66.95	189.05	55.54	118.60
Wood Apple (Fruit)	25.00-70.00	39.24	27.39	39.37	11.85	43.27	-0.13	-0.33
Orange (Fruit)	60.00-150.00	97.66	155.67	35.97	-58.01	-37.26	61.69	171.48
Avocado (Fruit)	130.00-340.00	209.67	223.62	164.41	-13.95	-6.24	45.26	27.53
Slime Apple (Fruit)	28.00-55.00	38.37	75.58	23.34	-37.21	-49.23	15.04	64.42
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	1300.00-1600.00	1402.86	1344.58	1762.05	58.27	4.33	-359.20	-20.39

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

According to the price behaviour of the wholesale market, the retail prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased in January. However, considering the banana varieties, the prices of *kolikuttu*, *ambun* and *ambun* have decreased with the highest price decrease reported for *kolikuttu* as 10%. During the month, the prices ranged between Rs.350.00-560.00/kg for *kolikuttu* and Rs.150.00-350.00/kg for *ambul* banana in Colombo and suburb markets. Further, the price of *karthakolomban* mango has increased by 64% due to low stocks position. Meanwhile, the prices of all the sizes of pineapple have increased in the range of 8%-17% due to increased wholesale prices and the prices ranged between Rs.280.00 (small)-850.00 (large)/fruit in Colombo suburbs markets.

Considering the other types of fruits, the retail prices of passion fruit (138%), avocado (57%), wood apple (27%) and papaw (24%) have increased while the prices of slime apple (22%) and orange (14%) have decreased according to the price behavior in the wholesale market. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of all the fruit varieties have increased with the highest price increase of 124% reported for passion fruit (Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – January, 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan-24	Jan-24	Dec-23	Jan-23	Dec-23		Jan-23	
					Rs	%	Rs	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	150.00-350.00	239.21	217.23	258.73	21.97	10.12	-19.52	-7.55
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	350.00-560.00	462.14	513.11	474.68	-50.97	-9.93	-12.54	-2.64
Seeni (Rs/kg)	150.00-280.00	215.88	209.53	212.30	6.36	3.03	3.58	1.69
Anamalu (Fruit)	30.00-44.00	36.44	36.65	28.09	-0.21	-0.56	8.35	29.74
Ambun (Fruit)	35.00-58.00	48.28	48.88	34.85	-0.60	-1.23	13.44	38.56
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large (Fruit)	480.00-850.00	680.80	581.56	582.92	99.24	17.06	97.88	16.79
Medium (Fruit)	380.00-700.00	566.62	502.50	503.22	64.12	12.76	63.40	12.60
Small (Fruit)	280.00-580.00	463.87	427.70	403.03	36.17	8.46	60.84	15.09
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti (Fruit)								
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	66.00-260.00	159.58	97.21	162.42	62.38	64.17	-2.84	-1.75
Vilad (Fruit)			55.00	84.00				
Kohu (Fruit)								
Papaw (Rs/kg)	150.00-350.00	252.35	204.29	315.62	48.07	23.53	-63.26	-20.04
Passion Fruit (Fruit)	65.00-250.00	136.53	57.47	60.81	79.06	137.56	75.72	124.51
Wood Apple (Fruit)	40.00-120.00	76.76	60.26	82.11	16.50	27.38	-5.35	-6.52
Orange (Fruit)	70.00-300.00	176.70	206	90.88	-29.29	-14.22	85.82	94.42
Avocado (Fruit)	160.00-300.00	238.05	151.6	173.92	86.45	57.03	64.13	36.87
Slime Apple (Fruit)	35.00-120.00	77.99	99.445	74.32	-21.46	-21.58	3.67	4.94
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	1500.00-2600.00	2053.96	2053.7	2326.15	0.30	0.01	-272.18	-11.70

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

### Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 1,510 mt of fresh fruits in January, 2024 to the value of Rs.218 mn. Of the exported quantity, 94% were papaw. Compared to January 2023 (730 mt), the exported quantity had increased during this year (Table 4.3).

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 509 mt of fresh fruits during the month and the value was Rs.238 mn. Apple was the mostly imported fruit type with the quantity of 232 mt, followed by grapes (200 mt). Compared to the month of January, 2023 (300 mt), the imported quantity had increased during this year (Table 4.4).



**Table 4.3: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits – November, 2023 to January, 2024**

Type of Fruit	Jan-24			Dec-23			Nov-23		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Papaw (fresh)	1414.6	122.6	86.6	1387.8	139.2	100.3	1728.8	203.2	117.5
Fresh Mango, Guava, mangosteen	68.7	77.8	1133.1	41.9	50.3	1200.4	44.5	43.7	980.2
Avocados (fresh)	1.8	1.4	742.6	0.9	0.8	887.9	1.7	1.9	1106.4
Pineapples (fresh)	23.6	15.7	665.7	23.9	9.4	392.9	19.7	5.3	267.2

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

**Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits – November, 2023 to January, 2024**

Type of Fruit	Jan-24			Dec-23			Nov-23		
	Qty(mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty(mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty(mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	231.72	92.92	400.99	525.93	184.27	350.37	612.20	228.84	373.80
Grapes	200.16	125.86	628.80	251.54	142.70	567.32	213.78	120.19	562.23
Oranges	77.22	19.03	246.51	25.91	9.43	364.00	98.63	34.62	351.03

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

## 5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

### Fish

#### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In January 2024, the Overall headline inflation, as measured by the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), increased from 4.2% to 6.5% year-on-year (YoY). Food inflation for the NCPI stood at 4.1%, while for the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI), it was 3.3%. Despite a slight inflation in food prices, most fish varieties experienced a decrease in wholesale prices due to abundant supplies from the Southern and Western Coastal areas, driven by prevailing dry weather conditions. Moreover, the Eastern Coastal belt witnessed heightened supply during the lean season, supported by favorable fishing weather.

Prices of most of the fish varieties except for salaya, paraw, shrimp (small) and thalapath had dropped, in January, in the wholesale market. The highest price drop was reported for mora by 15% followed by balaya at 13% and hurulla at 12%. In addition, prices of remaining fish varieties dropped by less than 4%, except for salaya, paraw, shrimp (small) and thalapath. However, prices of salaya, paraw, shrimp (small) and thalapath had increased slightly, in the range of 3% - 5%.

In comparison to the same period in the previous year, wholesale prices for most fresh fish varieties had increased, ranging from 4% to 15%, with the most notable hike was seen in the price of shrimp (small) at 15%.

In line with price variation in the wholesale market, prices of 50% the fish varieties, except for balaya, kelawalla and shrimp (small) had increased in the retail market. The highest price hike was reported for hurulla by 6.5%, followed by thora as 4% and salaya as 3%. When compared to the

same period of the previous year, retail prices for most of the fresh fish varieties had dropped, with the most significant decrease noted for hurulla by 12%.

**Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to				
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023		
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%	
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>									
Salaya	180.00-500.00	297.00	286.25	402.80	10.75	3.76	-105.80	-26.27	
Hurulla	380.00-800.00	560.86	637.73	820.60	-76.87	-12.05	-259.74	-31.65	
Balaya	500.00-1100.00	771.40	883.41	734.00	-112.01	-12.68	37.40	5.10	
Kelawalla	850.00-1500.00	1165.80	1178.25	1167.40	-12.45	-1.06	-1.60	-0.14	
Thora	1650.00-3000.00	2205.00	2276.25	2350.00	-71.25	-3.13	-145.00	-6.17	
Paraw	950.00-1550.00	1306.00	1265.75	1198.18	40.25	3.18	107.82	9.00	
Mora	800.00-1200.00	989.80	1166.67	948.84	-176.87	-15.16	40.96	4.32	
Shrimps (small)	1500.00-2000.00	1691.60	1641.75	1467.40	49.85	3.04	224.20	15.28	
Thalapath	1400.00-2600.00	1847.00	1763.75	1711.00	83.25	4.72	136.00	7.95	
<b>Retail Prices</b>									
Salaya	250.00-600.00	536.97	520.70	591.41	16.27	3.13	-54.43	-9.20	
Hurulla	550.00-1200.00	870.02	816.92	988.33	53.10	6.50	-118.31	-11.97	
Balaya	780.00-1800.00	1202.26	1280.24	1344.52	-77.98	-6.09	-142.26	-10.58	
Kelawalla	1100.00-2600.00	2055.25	2077.46	2114.26	-22.22	-1.07	-59.01	-2.79	
Thora	2200.00-4000.00	3173.63	3048.89	3200.87	124.74	4.09	-27.24	-0.85	
Paraw	1400.00-2600.00	2178.48	2169.17	2123.42	9.30	0.43	55.06	2.59	
Mora				1418.35					
Shrimps (small)	1900.00-2200.00	2036.58	2054.50	1825.81	-17.91	-0.87	210.78	11.54	
Thalapath	1700.00-3200.00	2739.78	2752.74	2637.39	-12.96	-0.47	102.39	3.88	

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## Dried Fish

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In January 2024, prices of all dried fish varieties experienced a slight hike in prices. The highest price increase at the wholesale level was recorded for salaya as 19% followed by sprats by 16% and balaya at 11% and during the month. The prices of remaining dried fish varieties, had increased by less than 6%. Compared to the same period of the previous year, wholesale prices for all the dried fish varieties had increased with the highest was reported for sprats as 17%.

In line with the wholesale price variations, prices all dried fish varieties had slightly increased at the retail market. The highest price increase at the retail level was recorded for sprats by 5%. Further, prices of all the remaining fish varieties had increased by less than 4% at the retail market. However, the prices of anguluwa and kattawa remained same as the last month's price. Compared to the same period of the previous year, retail prices for all the dried fish varieties had increased with the highest was reported for balaya by 16%.

**Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail prices of Dried fish – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Dried Fish -Wholesale</b>								
Sprats	1300.00-2000.00	1535.80	1322.25	1308.40	213.55	16.15	227.40	17.38
Sprats(imported)	900.00-1100.00	1006.50	951.88	934.77	54.63	5.74	71.73	7.67
Kattawa								
Kattawa (imported)	1250.00-1450.00	1342.40	1273.84	1702.96	68.56	5.38	-360.56	-21.17
Thora								
Thora(imported)								
Mora	1700.00-1950.00	1828.20	1742.25	1715.22	85.95	4.93	112.98	6.59
Mora (imported)								
Balaya	900.00-1100.00	979.60	881.25	875.13	98.35	11.16	104.47	11.94
Balaya(imported)								
Anguluwa								
Anguluwa (imported)	1400.00-1600.00	1511.67	1489.69	1670.11	21.97	1.47	-158.44	-9.49
Maduwa	1280.00-1500.00	1393.98	1365.75	1203.80	28.23	2.07	190.18	15.80
Maduwa(imported)								
Salaya	350.00-550.00	466.83	392.08	777.20	74.75	19.06	-310.37	-39.93
Salaya (imported)								
<b>Dried Fish -Retail</b>								
Sprats(imported)	1200.00-1500.00	1342.62	1306.71	1328.54	35.91	2.75	14.09	1.06
Sprats	1800.00-2600.00	2057.38	1959.89	1816.68	97.49	4.97	240.69	13.25
Kattawa	1800.00-2500.00	2198.12	2207.20	2486.64	-9.08	-0.41	-288.53	-11.60
Thora								
Mora	2000.00-2600.00	2394.86	2369.83	2406.43	25.03	1.06	-11.57	-0.48
Balaya	1300.00-2000.00	1703.85	1670.54	1465.46	33.31	1.99	238.39	16.27
Anguluwa	2200.00-2800.00	2439.09	2440.59	2437.22	-1.50	-0.06	1.87	0.08
Maduwa				2128.33				
Salaya	1000.00-1300.00	1081.55	1040.90	1240.61	40.66	3.91	-159.05	-12.82

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## Eggs

### Prices and Supply/ Demand Situation

Egg prices continue to drop in January. This price drop was attributed by the availability of imported eggs at 'Sathosa' markets for Rs. 35.00/egg and decreasing demand for eggs just after the festival season in last December.

Price of both white egg and brown egg had dropped by 2% at the wholesale level in January. In line with price variation at wholesale level, prices of both brown and white egg had dropped by 1% and 2% respectively at the retail market. When comparing to the same period of last year, the retail prices of brown egg had increased by 2% in 2024.

**Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail prices of Eggs – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Eggs - Brown (each)	50.00-59.00	53.45	54.59	54.06	-1.14	-2.10	-0.61	-1.13
Eggs - White(each)	48.00-57.00	51.08	52.16	52.40	-1.08	-2.07	-1.33	-2.53
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Eggs - Brown (each)	53.00-60.00	55.70	56.37	54.67	-0.67	-1.18	1.03	1.88
Eggs - White (each)	50.00-58.00	52.97	54.17	52.90	-1.20	-2.22	0.07	0.14

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## Meat

### Prices and Supply/ Demand Situation

Compared to December, prices of most of the meat varieties had slightly dropped at the retail market in January. The highest price drop was noted for pork as 9% due to decreasing demand in January, just after the festival season in December - 2023. Next, prices of both chicken (curry) and chicken (broiler) had decreased by 8% and 2 % respectively. However, beef (without bones) witnessed a price increase of 3% in January. Compared to last year, prices of most of the meat varieties had increased with the highest was reported for beef (without bones) as 15%.

**Table 5.4: Retail prices of Meat – January 2024**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Meat</b>								
Beef (without bones)	2200.00-2600.00	2,378.81	2,318.75	2062.00	60.06	2.59	316.81	15.36
Chicken (Broiler)	1100.00-1410.00	1,280.69	1,307.50	1235.95	-26.81	-2.05	44.74	3.62
Chicken (curry)	900.00-1400.00	1,149.95	1,246.88	1492.54	-96.93	-7.77	-342.59	-22.95
Mutton	3100.00-3400.00	3,261.61	3,259.03	2947.56	2.58	0.08	314.06	10.65
Pork	1250.00-1300.00	1,276.00	1,401.25	1691.73	-125.25	-8.94	-415.73	-24.57

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

## 6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

### Wheat grain and Wheat flour

**Table 6.1: Open market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar –January 2024**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023		Jan 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	211.67-212.69	212.05	210.46	249.52	1.59	0.76	-37.47	-15.02
Sugar	293.28-306.21	301.01	314.35	229.46	-13.34	-4.24	71.55	31.18

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

**Table 6.2: Quantity, value and CIF prices of wheat flour & grain- August 2023 to January 2024**

Month	Quantity (Mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
<b>Wheat Flour</b>					
January - 2024	8,424.16	1032.80	122.60	212.05	89.45
December - 2023	16,242.01	1957.33	120.51	210.46	89.95
November - 2023	7,831.71	995.04	127.05	210.00	82.95
October - 2023	8,732.46	1124.95	128.82	208.27	79.45
September - 2023	5,160.26	658.67	127.64	212.09	84.45
August - 2023	10,835.24	1380.44	127.40	211.74	84.34
<b>Wheat Grain</b>					
January - 2024	31,414.40	3,389.33	107.89	212.05	104.16
December - 2023	35,256.28	3,689.38	104.64	210.46	105.82
November - 2023	30,628.73	3,268.13	106.70	210.00	103.30
October - 2023	54,264.31	4,944.54	91.12	208.27	117.15
September - 2023	168,606.01	17,396.28	103.18	212.09	108.91
August - 2023	2,909.33	447.93	153.96	211.74	57.78

Source: Department of Customs; Data Management Division/HARTI

Note: Retail price of wheat grains means the retail price of wheat flour.

## Sugar

**Table 6.3: Quantity, value and CIF prices of sugar- August 2023 to January 2024**

Month	Quantity (Mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
January - 2024	31,036.12	7491.82	241.39	301.01	59.62
December- 2023	48,892.20	12525.07	256.18	314.35	58.17
November- 2023	32,534.18	8213.61	252.46	308.68	56.22
October- 2023	49,627.96	12366.69	249.19	271.99	22.80
September- 2023	32,835.10	7828.25	238.41	270.59	32.18
August- 2023	20,756.83	4942.24	238.10	256.11	18.01

Source: Department of Customs; Data Management Division/HARTI

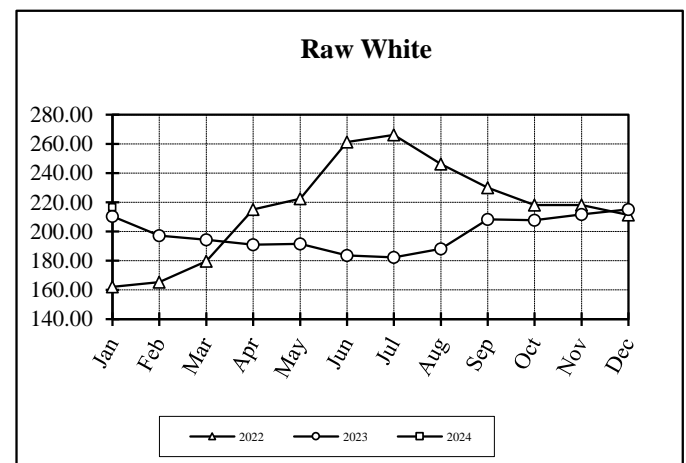
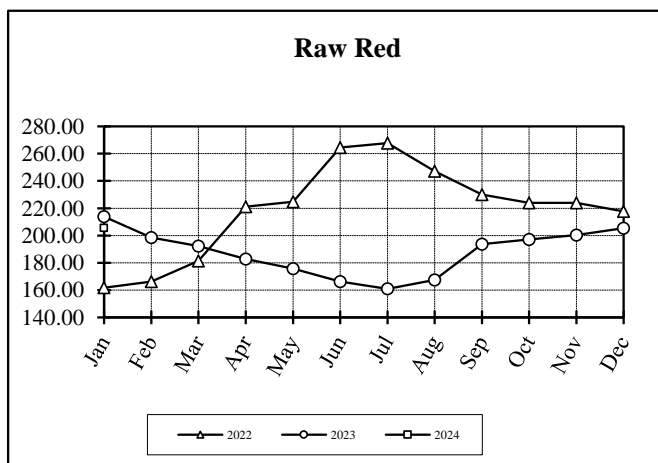
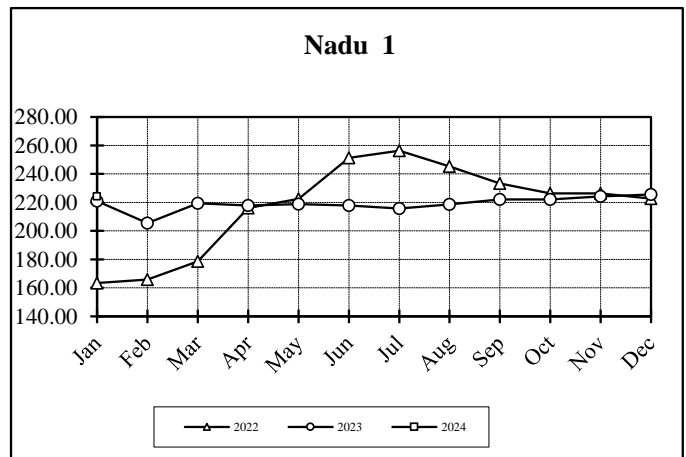
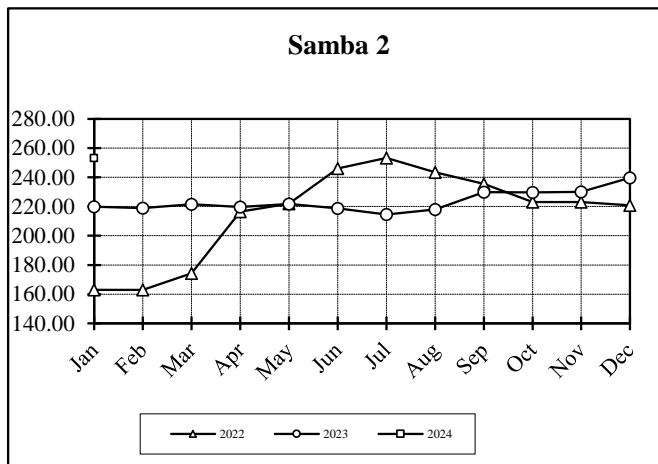
**Table 7: Import of selected food items -January 2024**

Items	Quantity (Mt)		% Change	Value (Million Rs)		% Change	CIF (Rs/Kg)		% Change
	Jan 2024	Dec 2023		Jan 2024	Dec 2023		Jan 2024	Dec 2023	
Rice	28380.6	925.5	2,967	6091.9	342.1	1,681	214.7	369.7	(42)
Red Onion	5796.4	1848.7	214	1339.2	468.3	186	231.0	253.3	(9)
Big Onion	20910.8	15956.3	31	4018.8	2895.9	39	192.2	181.5	6
Potato	16244.9	19400.4	(16)	1173.2	1445.5	(19)	72.2	74.5	(3)
Masoor Dhal	9102.2	7665.8	19	2213.9	1878.1	18	243.2	245.0	(1)
Garlic	1529.6	3712.2	(59)	623.8	1223.6	(49)	407.8	329.6	24
Wheat flour	8424.2	16242.0	(48)	1032.8	1957.3	(47)	122.6	120.5	2
Wheat grain	31414.4	35256.3	(11)	3389.3	3689.4	(8)	107.9	104.6	3
Sugar & sugar confectionery	31036.1	48892.2	(37)	7491.8	12525.1	(40)	241.4	256.2	(6)
Maize (Other)	19865.6	29411.8	(32)	1682.3	2600.1	(35)	84.7	88.4	(4)

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs, HARTI

**Appendix 01: Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)**

Month	Samba 2			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Jan	163.05	219.81	253.23	163.43	220.92	224.25	161.74	213.83	205.60	162.13	210.47	216.55
Feb	162.91	218.90		165.94	205.48		166.21	198.52		165.39	197.12	
Mar	174.23	221.53		178.69	219.37		181.30	192.21		179.60	194.29	
Apr	216.46	219.71		216.03	217.91		221.05	182.80		215.19	191.02	
May	221.87	221.71		222.47	218.80		224.78	175.69		222.45	191.48	
Jun	246.00	218.83		251.20	217.79		264.53	166.19		261.37	183.70	
Jul	253.30	214.56		256.35	215.78		267.75	160.92		266.15	182.31	
Aug	243.37	218.05		245.23	218.62		247.19	167.50		246.15	188.16	
Sep	235.46	229.85		233.33	222.08		230.02	193.71		229.95	208.29	
Oct	223.04	229.65		226.45	222.17		224.05	197.08		218.10	207.77	
Nov	223.04	230.00		226.45	224.19		224.05	200.36		218.10	211.66	
Dec	220.88	239.69		222.77	225.59		217.65	205.36		211.26	215.19	





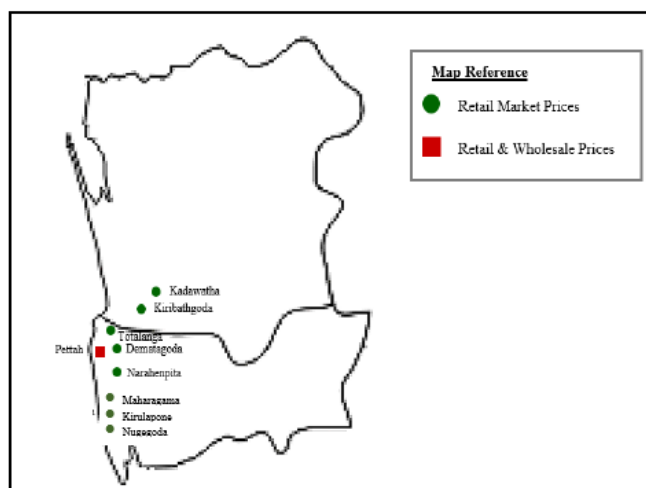
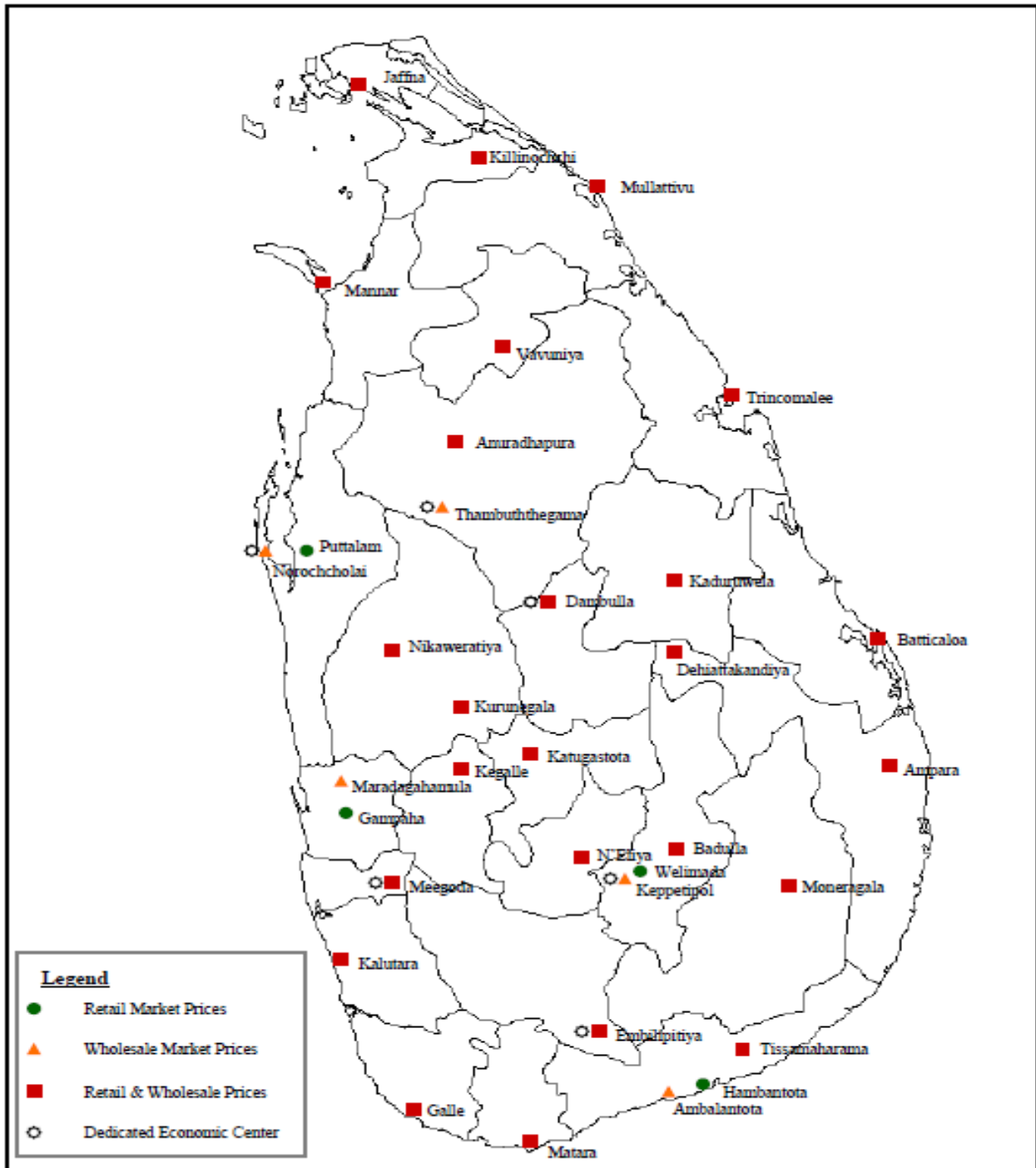




**Appendix 03: contd.....**

Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	5 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	5 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	5 <sup>th</sup> Week
<b>Brinjals</b>						<b>Pumpkin</b>						<b>Lime</b>					
A'pura	476.00	408.00	416.00	388.00	478.00	Dambulla	128.00	82.80	105.00	104.00	180.00	Hambantota					
Dambulla	448.00	428.00	464.00	456.00	470.00	Hambantota	120.00	120.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	Embilipitiya	214.00	136.00	136.00	142.00	128.00
Hambantota						Embilipitiya	128.00	132.00	132.00	158.00	160.00	Moneragala	220.00	138.00	120.00	120.00	88.00
Embilipitiya	467.50	272.00	465.00	465.00	460.00	Matara	118.75		110.00	110.00	130.00	<b>Fruits (Rs/Kg)</b>					
Matara		365.00	365.00	377.50	375.00	A'pura	128.00	108.00	138.00	108.00	158.00	<b>Banana</b>					
Welimada	356.00	361.00	372.00	396.00	460.00	Moneragala	134.00	124.00	144.00	108.00	148.00	Ambul					
						<b>Cucumber</b>						Moneragala	74.00	94.00	108.00	94.00	108.00
<b>Capsicum</b>						A'pura	78.00	74.00	84.00	74.00	74.00	Embilipitiya	104.00	104.00	78.00	78.00	72.00
Welimada	520.00	632.00	614.00	724.00	834.00	Dambulla	61.60	54.40	52.80	61.20	75.40	Hambantota	95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	115.00
<b>Bitter Gourd</b>						Hambantota	52.50	55.00	65.00	70.00	70.00	<b>Kolikuttu</b>					
A'pura	460.00	376.00	416.00	388.00	488.00	Matara	76.25	56.25	56.25	57.50	58.75	Moneragala	262.00	262.00	308.00	308.00	308.00
Dambulla	288.00	282.00	308.00	390.00	403.33	<b>Long beans</b>						Embilipitiya	260.00	230.00	222.00	210.00	210.00
Hambantota						Dambulla	165.00	167.50	258.00	276.00	268.00	Hambantota					
Embilipitiya	516.00	516.00	565.00	495.00	488.00	Hambantota	135.00	115.00	165.00	170.00	170.00	<b>Papaw</b>					
						Embilipitiya	220.00	184.00	416.00	344.00	282.00	Moneragala	104.00	88.00	108.00	88.00	108.00
<b>Snake Gourd</b>						Matara	141.25	135.00	143.75	148.75	307.50	Embilipitiya	112.00	125.00	125.00	140.00	140.00
Dambulla	156.00	160.50	185.50	187.00	282.00	A'Pura	198.00	208.00	308.00	308.00	308.00	Hambantota	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	135.00
Hambantota	148.00	160.00	160.00	266.00	266.00	<b>Ash Plantain</b>						<b>Pineapple</b>					
Embilipitiya	186.00	142.00	360.00	360.00	370.00	Hambantota						Divulapitiya					
Matara	177.50	153.75	186.25	215.00		Embilipitiya	216.00	196.00	196.00	196.00	196.00						
A'pura	198.00	198.00	218.00	228.00	288.00	Matara	186.25	158.75	158.75	158.75	161.25						
<b>Luffa</b>						<b>Green Chillies</b>											
Dambulla	310.00	267.50	335.00	312.00	252.00	Dambulla	880.00	880.00	762.00	722.00	900.00						
Hambantota	205.00	260.00	357.50	360.00	327.50	Hambantota											
Embilipitiya	332.00	248.00	385.00	322.50	330.00	Embilipitiya	952.00	844.00	944.00	944.00	980.00						
Matara			316.67			Puttalam	890.00	750.00	750.00	641.67	825.00						
A'pura	308.00	298.00	388.00	338.00	348.00	A'Pura	1190.00	940.00	920.00	870.00	1170.00						

# Price Collecting Areas





HARTI



Ministry of Agriculture

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